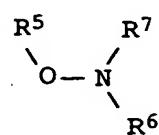


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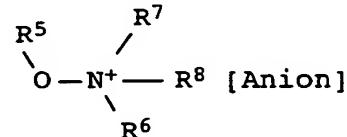
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We claim:-

1. A process for the production of semifinished products and  
5 intermediates in the production of leather using one or more  
organic polyelectrolytes, comprising at least one of the  
following steps:
    - (a) Addition of one or more polyelectrolytes and from 0 to  
10 0.7% by weight, based on the salted weight, of lime  
immediately before or during the liming,
    - (b) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes before or during  
15 the deliming,
    - (c) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes before or during  
the bating,
    - (d) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes and a total of  
20 from 0 to 3% by weight, based on the pelt weight, of an  
alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt immediately  
before or in the pickle.
  2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic  
polyelectrolyte used is a polyampholyte.
  3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic  
25 polyelectrolyte used is a polyacid.
  4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic  
polyelectrolyte used is a polybase.
  - 30 5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic  
polyelectrolyte used is a polysalt.
  6. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein  
35 one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV  
b



xv a



xv b

- 45 where R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are identical or different and are selected from

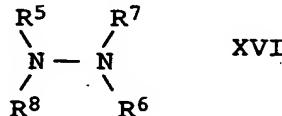
hydrogen,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,

5 C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl,

and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

10 or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



which may be protonated and in which R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above.

20 are furthermore added in step (a).

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein hydroxylamine is added in step (a).
- 25 8. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI are used together with alkali metal hydroxide and alkali metal carbonate in step (a).
- 30 9. A semifinished product or intermediate in the production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8.
- 35 10. The use of a semifinished product or intermediate in the production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8; for the production of leather.

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